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Generals: 'Human Domain' Will Dictate Future Wars



By [Michael Hoffman](#) | Tuesday, May 14th, 2013 12:51 am

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The leaders of the Army, Marine Corps and Special Operations Forces have offered their response to the Air Force and Navy's Air-Sea Battle with an exclusive task force of their own: Strategic Landpower.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond Odierno, Marine Corps Commandant Gen. James Amos and Adm. William McRaven, head of U.S. Special Operations forces, each signed a white paper released May 13 that outlines their plans to ensure the nation's investment in its land warfare forces doesn't waver in the face of budget cuts and a national defense strategy that emphasizes the Pacific.

Odierno, Amos and McRaven have listened to their sister service leaders explain to Congress how Air-Sea Battle is the right operating concept to respond to emerging threats in the Asia-Pacific region. The three have similarly watched as the Air Force and the Navy have seen more modernization programs survive under recent budget pressures.

Air-Sea Battle is a buzz word that has echoed throughout Pentagon halls for the past few years. It's an operating concept to develop a joint force designed to penetrate anti-access/area denial scenarios that the U.S. military expect to likely face against potential conflicts with China or North Korea.

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Air Force and Navy brass have used Air-Sea Battle to defend such projects as the next generation bomber and Ohio-class replacement submarines. Meanwhile, Army and Marine Corps officials have watched top priorities such as the Ground Combat Vehicle and Joint Light Tactical Vehicle get delayed.

Ground force leaders appear on the defensive any time the prospect of the Pacific pivot is raised.

Odierno often resorts to pointing out in his speeches and testimony before Congress that seven of the world's largest armies call the Pacific home.

Offering a land warfare counter point to Air-Sea Battle seemed like a likely progression. In November 2012, Odierno announced plans to create the Strategic Landpower Task Force. The white paper titled "Strategic Landpower: Winning the Clash of Wills" is the first major policy offering from the task force.

Odierno, Amos and McRaven chose to emphasize the "human domain" as the key determining factor in future conflicts.

"In a word, the success of future strategic initiatives and the ability of the U.S. to shape a peaceful and prosperous global environment will rest more and more on our ability to understand, influence, or exercise control within the 'human domain,'" according to the white paper.

The "human domain" is defined for the purposes of this white paper as the "physical, cultural and social environments" that exist within a conflict. Each leader felt strong enough about the human domain's influence that they recommended the Pentagon consider adopting it as a "doctrinal term and the Doctrine, Organization, Training, Materiel, Leadership and Education, Personnel, and Facilities (DOTMILPF) implications."

Army, Marine and Special Operations leaders have observed the human domain dictate success in Iraq and Afghanistan for the past ten years. The ground forces own a unique perspective and ability to shape the human domain in future conflicts, according to the white paper.

"What all three have in common is that their purposes and forces intersect in the land domain, and a recognition that, although their problem is clear, rigorous study and analysis is required to translate emerging understanding and adapt ten years of war into effective military capabilities that achieve both human and physical objectivities in the future," the white paper stated.

Odierno, Amos and McRaven expect the influence of the human domain to grow.

"What we know and project about the future operating environment tells us that the significance of the 'human domain' in future conflict is growing, not diminished," the service leaders wrote.

The Army, Marine Corps, and Special Operations leadership didn't fail to acknowledge the importance of the Navy and Air Force "both as a deterrent to aggression and in military engagement," according to the white paper.

"Still, those efforts must be complemented by forward engaged and creatively employed soldiers, Marines, and Special Operations Forces, as it signals a high level of American commitment to its partners and allies," Odierno, Amos and McRaven wrote.

The three four-stars warned that cutting too deeply into the coffers of the land forces at times of peace is a common mistake made throughout history.

"Historically as we have come out of war we have significantly reduced our capacity to operate on land, without adequately accounting for what one risks by doing so," the white paper stated.

Tags: [Amos](#), [Army](#), [DOTMILPF](#), [Marine Corps](#), [McRaven](#), [Odierno](#), [Special Operations Forces](#), [Strategic Landpower Task Force](#)

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[tmb2](#) 88p · 103 weeks ago

+6

GEN Dempsey, please explain to us how you're the Chairman of the JOINT Chiefs of Staff again? This article reads like the services just declared war on each other. GEN Odierno, I respect you deeply, but if you get your budget for this "human domain," we all know it'll just go to fund the vehicle fleet in the same way the Air-Sea Battle budget will go to keeping the F-35 from rusting out.

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[BlackOwl118E](#) 94p · 103 weeks ago

-2

If the Army wants to remain relevant for the Pacific it should put some budget money toward developing advanced surface-to-air missile systems that can defend an air base from an enemy cruise missile assault. Other than that, the U.S. Army needs a vehicle with excellent amphibious capability in

order to have place in the pacific. Apart from these two systems the Army should allow itself to be cut so funding can be better sent to the services that really need it.

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STemplar · 103 weeks ago

+1

More and more I read 'ideas' and policies coming out of generals and admirals and I am left with one thought, huh? These idiots have one mission, get costs down on everything, period.

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jay · 103 weeks ago

+3

Obama has different plans for our people--more sicko social engineering.

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Bradford · 103 weeks ago

+2

This article reads more like the mission question statement paper at some podunk Liberal Arts college seminar on "Re-Imagining the Global Military in Terms of Past DoD Failures"...I see great minds thinking in circles, and engaged in internecine *Budget*Battles*...It's mid-2013, and JCS is *ONLY*NOW* recognizing the "human domain" ...???..."DOTMILPF"implications...WTF?...Shorten that mouthful, OK, guys?...*GET*SIMPLE*.... There are only *3* kinds of resources: Physical, Natural, & Human....Think about THAT....*PHN*planning is far simpler, and much easier to implement...You guys need some outside consultants...(..."Pacific Pivot" needs a "Force Fulcrum", and a "Lever Set", along with a mission-specific tool-kit range....See, *I* can do this wordplanning BETTER than JCS....and, *I* am only a 2-Star...

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Philip Dur · 103 weeks ago

0

I would offer two comments:

1. I would note that the Marine Corps is still considered a NAVAL force. This notwithstanding the fact that we have drifted away from the FLEET Marine Forces of yesteryear.
2. In discussing the need for forces in the peaceful interludes between wars, We might ask ourselves why the founding fathers who authored the Constitution distinguished between the Congress' responsibility to MAINTAIN a Navy and RAISING Armies,

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Philip Dur · 103 weeks ago

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Lance · 103 weeks ago

-1

Overall we need new bomber and new SSN subs we don't need a new APC so explains GCV delayed.

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Talosian · 103 weeks ago

+1

A strong standing Army core (not corps) is needed, that can be filled out with additional brigades in about 6 months to a year, if necessary. Using Reserves is critical in this construct, but trainloads of money can be saved by not paying for a giant standing army, and we really need to start saving more money. (see STemplar's comment above)

Such risks cannot be taken for ships and aircraft. Look at the incredibly inept procurement system. We could not assume that production of ships and aircraft could be ramped up quickly if the winds of war start blowing. These things need to be on hand, or they won't arrive until too late, if at all.

Of course the procurement system of the 18th century was different than today, but even then, more time was probably required to build a frigate than raise an Army. The founders may have also had this on their minds, when mentioning a 'Standing Navy' as opposed to 'Raising an Army'.

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Red · 103 weeks ago

+1

We need our Army on our own borders, not DHS. We need our Navy at sea and our Air Force doing away with countries, regions, or ideologies that threaten us, the US, either militarily, culturally or financially!

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Belesari · 103 weeks ago

+3

So time to begin cutting the hundreds of Generals, Admirals and Officers of all kinds. Thats what causes this ****.

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GenEarly · 7 weeks ago

+5

All avoiding the underlying 'foundation'the USSA is factually Financially Bankrupt as well as Spiritually. There is no longer a "Republic" left to Defend. (The POTUS is a petty petulent Dictator, the Con-gress is corrupt and inept, and the Judiciary Rules by Fiat.). Then what are you defending? Not that there is nothing left to "Defend", but a careful, considered answer to the question is required in a borderless, lawless entity masquerading as a hollowed out empire.

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[Report](#)[matismf](#) 89p · 7 weeks ago

+4

I see that the Perfumed Princes are fully in charge. Not even ONE honorable senior officer left in ANY branch of the military. Are the lower ranks as fully polluted?

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